

Texts in Modern Japanese Literature

Dr L. M. Flores, Faculty of Oriental Studies

Trinity Term, 2 hours of tutorials per week.

The purpose of this course is for students to explore the topic of trauma in its various manifestations in modern Japanese literature. Students will read and translate primary texts of trauma fiction and/or literary criticism in Japanese; they will also read criticism on trauma theory and related issues in the field in English. The emphasis in this option will be on '3.11 Literature', though other works of trauma fiction will be considered. This course will explore the politics of writing and representing 3.11 in literature. It will consider questions such as: How is trauma represented in modern Japanese literature? Is the field of trauma studies, much of which is rooted in Holocaust studies, relevant to the study of Japanese literature? Authors studied in this option may include writers such as Kawakami Hiromi, Furukawa Hideo and Ikezawa Natsuki. Students taking this option are welcome to attend the Modern Japanese Literature lecture series taught during Michaelmas and Hilary terms.

Students will be invited to submit an essay on an assigned topic for assessment by the end of week 4 in either of the two terms in which the classes are taught. Details will be given during the first class of the term.